Message

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Subject: U.S. EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Weekly Digest Bulletin

Pesticide Program Update: In Mississippi, Administrator Wheeler Announces Multi-Million-Dollar Initiative Dedicated to Sustainable Pest Control in Agriculture

01/11/2021

In Mississippi, Administrator Wheeler Announces Multi-Million-Dollar Initiative Dedicated to Sustainable Pest Control in Agriculture

Today, at an event with the Mississippi Farm Bureau, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced a $2 million dollar initiative that encourages smart, sensible, and sustainable pest control in agriculture. Administrator Wheeler was also joined by U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Director Chris Wells, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gipson, Mississippi State Senator Charles Younger, Mississippi Farm Bureau President Mike McCormick, EPA Regional Administrator Mary Walker, and EPA Chief of Staff Mandy Gunasekara for the announcement. The initiative, which is an extension of EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP), expects to award grantees up to $200,000 to

implement sustainable pest management practices that align with the agency's goal of providing a healthier environment for all Americans.

"With the extension of this multi-million-dollar initiative, the Trump Administration is providing growers with the additional resources they need to cut down on the environmental risks of both pests and pesticides," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler.** "Together, EPA and the agricultural community are building on our already strong foundation of sustainable pest management practices."

This fiscal year, EPA expects to award approximately $2 million total for agricultural projects that explore innovative practices, technologies, education, and non-regulatory solutions that promote the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. Traditional pest control involves the routine application of pesticides. IPM, in contrast, combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.

EPA expects to issue a Request for Applications in January 2021 and applicants will have 45 days to submit their applications. Funding will be available to:

- States or state agencies, territories, city or township governments, and federally recognized tribes.
- Public and private universities and colleges.
- Other public or private nonprofit institutions and 501(c)(3) organizations (PESP membership is not an eligibility requirement to receive funding).

"We are pleased to be a part of this important announcement today with EPA. We look forward to working with EPA to further this important program here in Mississippi," **said Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick**.

EPA's PESP is guided by the principle that partnership programs complement the standards and decisions established by regulatory and registration actions. This partnership program has previously invested nearly $4 million annually to support more than 100 successful grants, awards, and collaborative efforts. These efforts have promoted IPM in agriculture, schools, integrated vegetation management on utility rights-of-ways, and shared information on tick management strategies and EPA region-specific projects on sustainable pest management practices.

Today, EPA partners with over 400 organizations through PESP and welcomes more organizations to share the commitment to environmental stewardship where we live, work, play, and farm.

For more information about PESP, visit: www.epa.gov/pesp

For more information about PESP grants, visit: https://www.epa.gov/pesp/pesticide-environmental-stewardship-program-grants

To learn more about IPM, visit: www.epa.gov/ipm.

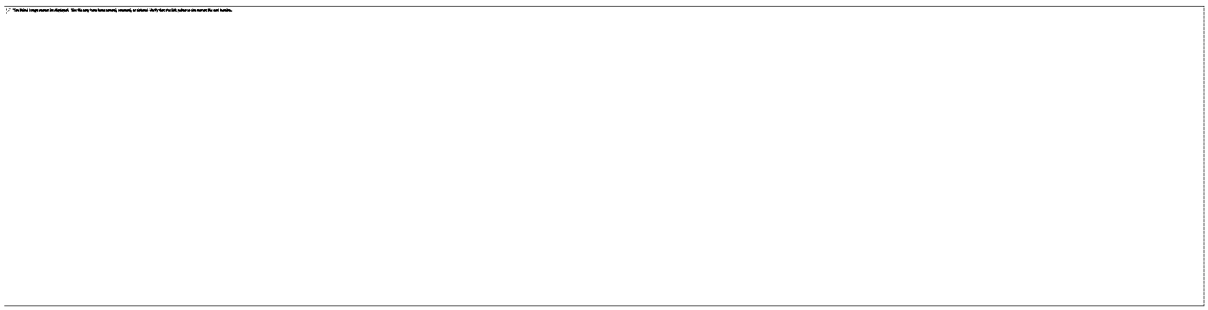
Background:

EPA's PESP traces its roots to the 1993 Pesticide Use/Risk Reduction Initiative, a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and EPA to reduce the use of pesticides that pose unreasonable risks to humans and the environment. Over the past 27 years, the program has promoted IPM and provided information exchange from growers to

EPA to inform certain pesticide regulatory decisions. While PESP grant funding ceased in 2010, the program has continued to carry on this important work in other ways. With today's announcement, the agency is undertaking new efforts to provide grants focused on agriculture-centered IPM.

Pesticide Program Update: Comment Period Extended for Glyphosate Draft Biological Evaluation

01/12/2021



Comment Period Extended for Glyphosate Draft Biological Evaluation

EPA is extending the public comment period on the draft biological evaluation for glyphosate to give stakeholders more time to review and comment. The current comment period was set to close on Jan. 26, 2021, and EPA is extending the comment period an additional 45 days. Comments can be submitted to docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0585 on www.regulations.gov.

EPA will use feedback received from the public comment period to inform the final biological evaluation for glyphosate.

View the draft biological evaluation and supporting documents.

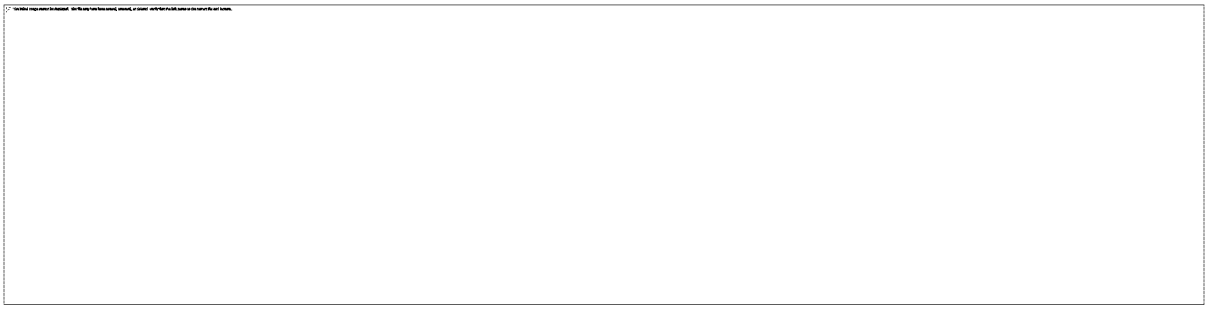
Background

In November 2020, EPA released its draft biological evaluation (BE) for glyphosate for public review and comment. Biological evaluations are the beginning of EPA's Endangered Species Act

consultation review process where the agency determines whether a pesticide may affect one or more individuals of a listed species and their designated critical habitats.

Register for the February 2 Webinar on 1,4-Dioxane

01/12/2021



Register for the February 2 Webinar on 1,4-Dioxane

On February 2, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, EPA will host a webinar to educate stakeholders on the risk management process under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the findings in the final risk evaluation for 1,4-dioxane. The webinar also provides an opportunity for the public to provide input on considerations the agency should take into account for managing these unreasonable risks.

Register for the webinar. If you would like to provide oral comments during the webinar, you must register by January 28, 2021 at 5 PM EST. Select "attend and make a comment" when registering. You may register as a listen-only attendee at any time up to the end of the meeting. For listen-only attendees, select "listen-only" when registering.

Details on how to access the webinar and slides will be sent to participants after registering via Eventbrite.com. Please ensure that emails from Eventbrite.com will not be blocked by your spam filter. EPA will provide a transcript and recording on EPA's 1,4-dioxane webpage following the webinar.

Additionally, EPA will begin formal consultations with state and local governments, tribes, environmental justice communities, and small businesses. There will also be an open public comment period on any draft risk management regulation.

Learn more about risk management for 1,4-dioxane.

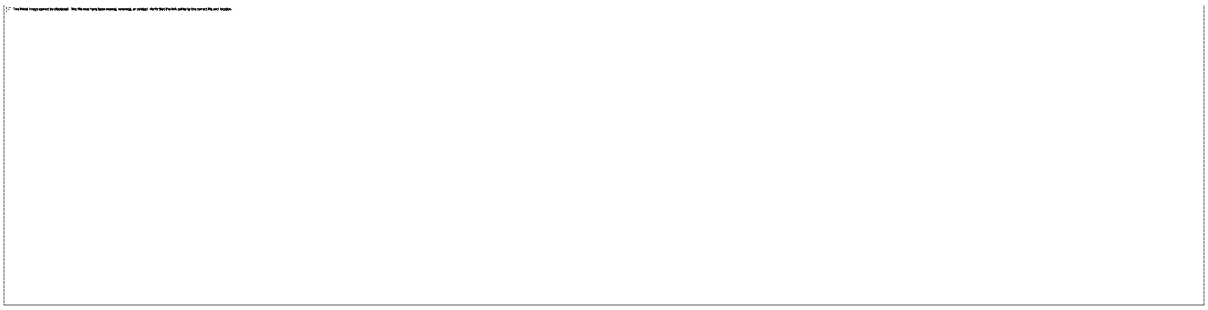
Background

TSCA is our nation's primary chemicals management law. This law requires EPA to evaluate the risks associated with exposure to existing chemicals using the best available science then take action to reduce or eliminate any unreasonable risk identified. The agency issued a final risk evaluation for 1,4-dioxane in December 2020 showing unreasonable risks to workers and consumers under certain conditions of use. EPA is now moving to risk management for this chemical, the next step in the process required by TSCA.

There are several actions EPA can take alone or in combination under TSCA to address unreasonable risks including banning a chemical; restricting the manufacturing, processing, distribution, use, or disposal; requiring warning labels/testing; and requiring manufacturers to notify distributors of any unreasonable risks. EPA has up to one year after issuing a final risk evaluation to propose risk management actions followed by a public comment period and final rule.

EPA and OSHA Sign Agreement Supporting Coordination on Chemical Reviews and Advancing Worker Safety

01/12/2021



EPA and OSHA Sign Agreement Supporting Coordination on Chemical Reviews and Advancing Worker Safety

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that advances collaboration and communication on EPA's review of new chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This MOU provides a framework for coordination and communication between the two agencies on exposure to new chemicals in the workplace and will help achieve the agencies' shared goal of ensuring workers are protected from potential health and environmental risks.

"Ensuring the safety of workers is one of our top priorities as we review the health and environmental risks associated with new chemicals before they can enter the market," **said EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Assistant Administrator Alexandra Dapolito Dunn**. "We are pleased to partner with OSHA to further advance our

commitment to implementing TSCA in a way that is transparent, protects public health, and helps our economy to grow."

"This MOU will further our shared goals of worker protection and chemical hazard awareness for workers and employers," **stated Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Loren Sweatt**.

As required by TSCA, EPA and OSHA have been collaborating on workplace exposures as part of EPA's review of new chemicals. This MOU formalizes coordination efforts that EPA and OSHA have already implemented and provides a framework for additional opportunities for collaboration.

Highlights of the MOU include:

- Establishing designated staff and management points of contact from each agency to discuss and resolve workplace exposure issues related to EPA's review of new chemicals.
- Providing OSHA with regular updates on EPA's new chemical determinations, including any necessary worker protection identified during EPA's review.
- Documenting EPA's role in identifying and notifying OSHA of the need for formal consultation on EPA's review of new chemicals.

The MOU builds on several improvements made over the past four years to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the agency's new chemicals program. Over the past year, EPA has taken unprecedented steps to meet the agency's legal requirements while increasing the amount of information made publicly available on new chemicals.

To view the MOU, visit https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/memorandum-understanding-between-epa.

To learn more about EPA's review of new chemicals, visit: https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca.

To learn more about OSHA, visit: https://www.osha.gov/.

Background

Under TSCA, the primary chemicals management law in the United States, EPA reviews new chemicals for unreasonable risk to public health or the environment before they can be brought to market. The Lautenberg Act amendments to TSCA added new requirements for EPA to work with OSHA on issues regarding workplace exposures to new chemicals. EPA has since implemented regular coordination with OSHA and has collaborated on workplace exposures generally, discussing and implementing procedures for regular reporting to OSHA on workplace exposure issues, and handling of confidential business information.

Pesticide Program Update: EPA Takes Aggressive Actions Against Citrus Greening While Maintaining Public Health and Environmental Protections

EPA Takes Aggressive Actions Against Citrus Greening While Maintaining Public Health and Environmental Protections

Today, EPA is announcing two actions to help protect America's citrus industry from citrus greening and citrus canker disease. In Florida alone, 90 percent of citrus acreage is affected by citrus greening, resulting in $1.75 billion in cumulative losses in production value over a 10-year period.

Citrus greening (Huanglongbing, or HLB disease) is a bacterial pathogen transmitted by the invasive insect pest Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), which is considered the most destructive pest of citrus worldwide. Citrus canker disease is highly contagious and is spread by wind, rain, irrigation, and human and animal activity in citrus groves.

EPA is registering one technical product, a supplemental label, and one new end-use product for the insecticide aldicarb for use on oranges and grapefruit in Florida. The registration limits the product's sale and distribution to an amount allowing up to 100,000 acres in Florida to be treated each application season (Nov. 15-April 30) for three growing seasons, expiring on April 30, 2023. The product label also requires specific application restrictions to help protect potential runoff and leaching to drinking water sources.

Unlike other foliar-applied chemicals that at most have an average of four to eight weeks of activity in controlling ACP, aldicarb lasts on average 10 and 15 weeks for nymphs and adults, respectively. A further advantage of aldicarb is its low impact on some natural predatory insects that provide biological control services against other plant-feeding pests.

EPA is also amending one technical and one end-use product for streptomycin, an antibiotic derived from the bacterium *Streptomyces* griseus, to be used on citrus crop group 10-10, which includes varieties of orange, grapefruit, lemon, and lime. These registrations will be time limited to seven years, expiring on Jan. 12, 2028.

Streptomycin suppresses HLB disease and will aid resistance management of citrus canker because it provides a different mode of action than registered alternatives.

EPA collaborated with the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate potential antibiotic resistance. The

label contains requirements to delay antibiotic, fungicide, and bactericide resistance. Registration terms require resistance management plans, monitoring, and annual sales reports. Mitigation is being implemented to address potential antibiotic resistance, applicator exposure, and spray drift.

Human health risk assessments for both aldicarb and streptomycin are complete and present no risks of concern, including to young children.

Ecological risks to birds, mammals, aquatic organisms, and honeybees are the same as aldicarb's existing uses and registrations. Registration terms for orange and grapefruit uses require submission of additional pollinator data.

The ecological risk conclusions for streptomycin are similar to those of its other registered uses.

To view the final decisions, see docket number EPA HQ-OPP-2020-0600 at regulations.gov for aldicarb and docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0067 for streptomycin.

Pesticide Program Update: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

01/14/2021

EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) extensive efforts to address PFAS, today the agency is making new information available about EPA testing that shows PFAS contamination from fluorinated containers.

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE)

containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are leaching into the pesticide product.

While the agency is early in its investigation and assessment of potential impacts on health or the environment, the affected pesticide manufacturer has voluntarily stopped shipment of any products in fluorinated HPDE containers and is conducting its own testing to confirm EPA results and product stability in un-fluorinated containers. In addition, EPA has issued a request for information under the Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) to the company that fluorinates the containers used by certain pesticide manufacturers. The TSCA subpoena requests information about the fluorination process used to treat the containers.

As EPA evaluates this issue, the agency asks that pesticide and other companies using fluorinated containers, and entities that provide container fluorination services, engage in good product stewardship and examine their distribution chains to identify potential sources of contamination. EPA will also continue to work closely with the entities involved and their supply and distribution chains, mosquito control districts, the pesticide and packaging industry, federal partners, states, and tribes that may be affected to provide information and guidance on next steps. EPA understands the need to provide guidance to states, tribes, and other users as they prepare to purchase mosquito control products for 2021 and will provide more information as it continues its investigation.

EPA will update the following webpage with information as it becomes available: https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/pfas-packaging

Background

Since first becoming aware of the PFAS contamination issue in early September 2020 through citizen science testing of a pesticide product for mosquito control, EPA has been working to investigate the source of the contamination. Throughout October and November 2020, EPA has worked diligently in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to request samples of the pesticide product and analyze the identified product at different steps of production and manufacturing to determine whether PFAS are present, including issuing an information request to the pesticide registrant on October 5, 2020 seeking information on the affected pesticide's production, sales, and distribution.

In late December 2020, EPA studied the fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the product and determined the containers are a possible source of PFAS contamination. EPA has been in close contact with Massachusetts, the pesticide registrant and the fluorinated HDPE container treatment company to discuss the issue, as well as to obtain the materials needed to test for PFAS in the product and the fluorinated HDPE containers.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA is charged with approving active and inert ingredients in the registered pesticide products sold in the United States. EPA has confirmed that PFAS is not a known ingredient or additive in the company's affected product and is collaboratively working with the registrant as EPA laboratories test samples of the product at different steps of production and manufacturing, in addition to the agency's study of the containers themselves.

EPA Issues Test Orders for Nine Chemicals Undergoing Risk Evaluation under TSCA

01/15/2021

EPA Issues Test Orders for Nine Chemicals Undergoing Risk Evaluation under TSCA

EPA has issued Test Orders under section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to obtain additional data on nine of the next 20 chemicals undergoing risk evaluation. After reviewing available data on these chemicals, EPA has determined additional data are needed and is using its TSCA test order authority to require companies to develop and submit information on environmental hazard and inhalation and dermal exposures for workers.

The action marks the second time EPA has used this authority, added to TSCA by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, to inform the TSCA risk evaluation process. The test orders are the result of a lengthy Agency analytical process to identify the data needed to evaluate these nine chemicals. The information obtained through these orders will help ensure EPA's risk evaluations for these chemicals are robust, credible, and use the best available data.

Companies subject to the test orders may provide EPA with existing data or conduct new tests. Companies may also form consortia to consolidate costs and burden, and avoid unnecessary duplication of testing.

The nine chemicals subject to these section 4 Test Orders are:

- Chlorinated Solvents:
    - 1,1,2-Trichloroethane
    - 1,1-Dichloroethane
    - 1,2-Dichloroethane
    - 1,2-Dichloropropane
    - Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene
    - o-Dichlorobenzene
    - p-Dichlorobenzene
- Flame Retardants:
    - 4,4'-(1-Methylethylidene)bis[2,6-dibromophenol] (TBBPA)
    - Phosphoric acid, triphenyl ester (TPP)

The orders and any data submitted in response to these orders will be made publicly available on EPA's website and in applicable dockets on www.regulations.gov.

Learn more about TSCA section 4 test orders.

Background

The Lautenberg Act amendments to TSCA expanded the agency's authority to require the development of new information on chemicals via issuance of section 4 Test Orders. The nine chemicals subject to the Test Orders issued today are part of the 20 chemicals designated as high priority for risk evaluation under TSCA in December 2019. In September 2020, EPA issued final scope documents for these chemicals and anticipates publishing draft risk evaluations for public comment over the next two years.

EPA Approves Emergency Exemption for Antiviral Air Treatment

01/15/2021

EPA Approves Emergency Exemption for Antiviral Air Treatment

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced approval of an emergency exemption request for use of Grignard Pure, as an additional tool in limited use situations to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

EPA is issuing an emergency exemption for Grignard Pure to be used in certain indoor spaces where social distancing can be challenging. Use of this product does not eliminate the need for critical precautions like mask wearing, social distancing, and ventilation. Always follow CDC, state and local public health guidelines.

This exemption has been granted to Georgia and Tennessee state governments. After carefully reviewing safety and efficacy data, EPA has determined the product will provide another tool to assist States with approved emergency exemptions during the current public health emergency. EPA's approval will allow the product to be applied in Georgia and Tennessee in

certain indoor spaces where adherence to current public health guidelines is impractical or difficult to maintain. Areas of particular concern include breakrooms, locker rooms, bathrooms, lobbies, elevators, eating areas, and food preparation areas within health care facilities, intrastate transportation, food processing facilities, and indoor spaces within buildings—including government facilities—where people are conducting activity deemed essential by the state.

"Today, we are approving the first-ever airborne antiviral product that will help fight the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler.** "There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans and I want to thank those—both within EPA and those outside—who have worked to achieve this important milestone."

"We are deeply grateful to the diligent teams at EPA who were tireless in evaluating and validating the health, safety and efficacy of Grignard Pure as the first-of-its-kind antimicrobial air treatment," **said Etienne Grignard, co-founder and CEO, Grignard Pure**. "Grignard Pure is a passion and a mission for us. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been singularly focused on making Grignard Pure a critical component in achieving the shared commitment we all have—helping people feel safer, getting industries and our economy back to full operation, and using science, technology and engineering to find solutions that move us past the ravages of COVID-19."

EPA is approving these emergency exemption requests from Georgia and Tennessee under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Application levels are monitored through visual assessment, or sensors which automatically regulate the amount of product suspended in the air. Additionally, the EPA-approved label requires that signs be posted at every entrance to the spaces notifying the public that the space has been treated.

Triethylene glycol (TEG) is the active ingredient in Grignard Pure. TEG is commonly used in fog machines for concerts and theatre productions. EPA reviewed all available data on this product's effectiveness and safety and concluded that it is capable of killing 98 percent of airborne SARS-CoV-2. TEG may be an irritant for sensitive populations.

For more information, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/section-18-emergency-exemption-requests-and-coronavirus-covid-19.

Pesticide Program Update: Updates to Pesticide Label Review Manual and Registration Guide Now Available

01/15/2021

Updates to Pesticide Label Review Manual and Registration Guide Now Available

EPA has updated the Pesticide Registration Manual and Pesticide Label Review Manual (LRM) to provide additional resources for companies and individuals wishing to sell their pesticide products in the United States.

The Registration Manual describes EPA's review and decision-making process for registering a pesticide product. EPA is adding a new introductory section to provide a brief overview of the registration process. This section will enable interested parties to get a general sense of the steps involved in just a few minutes.

The LRM is a resource for understanding how pesticide labels should generally be drafted. EPA updates the LRM periodically to ensure EPA label reviewers and stakeholders have the most current guidance. EPA is updating Chapter 2, "What is a Pesticide?" Key revisions include:

- Updated hyperlinks and removed outdated references.
- Clarified term "plant regulator."
- Added explanatory text to Section III.E on determining whether food commodities that have undergone dehydration processing activities are considered "processed food."
- Updated Section V: "Is the product a device?"

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